

non-union mined coal came into districts where miners were idle.

It was also asserted that many of the miners, knowing that some were at work, would soon become discouraged and would either flock to Robins's union mines or seek contracts with their employers regardless of the strike order. Some favored the plan of letting Robins carry on work in his mines, but those who attended the caucuses were almost a unit in opposition to it.

Word had come to the leaders of the miners regarding the caucuses before the general convention met, and when it assembled at 9 o'clock President Mitchell made no reference whatever to Robins. He called attention to the fact that the scale committee, without authority from the general convention, had received from its demand for an increase of 12 1/2 per cent, and had offered to readopt the scale of 1903, and he said that the delegates had been called together to know if this action was to receive their approval.

There was some heated discussion regarding the attitude of the operators, and many speeches were made in favor of breaking off all relations and entering upon a strike, but the position of the scale committee was approved. It was plain to Mitchell that the delegates were not in a humor to consider a separate contract with Robins and he adjourned the convention for the final conference with the operators.

It required short work to show that the operators were willing to assume every responsibility that attaches to their refusal to agree to the scale of 1903. As soon as the joint conference met, Mitchell presented the scale again and a few of the independent operators of Pennsylvania voted with the miners for the scale and the Illinois, Indiana and Ohio operators voted solidly against it.

While the debate on the proposition was in progress there was a sensational scene in which President Mitchell and President Parker of the Madison Coal Company figured. Responding to a question, Parker said he was president of the Madison Coal Company and purchasing agent of the Illinois Central Railroad and he believed that Mitchell was glad he was.

Mitchell demanded an explanation and Parker said that he had issued transportation on Mitchell's order. Mitchell denounced the assertion as untrue and said that he had never ridden on a pass. He replied that he had not expected Mitchell personally to attempt to run his mine, but with a pass, but intimated that transportation had been given to others on Mitchell's request.

President Robins expected to meet the miners to-morrow, or at least have the question presented to all the delegates to the convention, and secure a decision at once. Robins does not intend to leave the city till the question is finally settled. He is determined to attempt to run his mine, consent or no consent by the organization, and it is intimated that many of the miners in his employ have assured him that, having accepted the offer of the scale committee, they would not hesitate to work in the face of a refusal.

Robins feels confident that many of his miners will ignore a strike order for his mine, if one is issued, and says that it is not improbable that the miners of western Pennsylvania will break away from the mine workers' organization and form one of their own.

President Mitchell will leave here for the East as soon as the miners' convention adjourns, but he has no hope now of getting such a settlement from the anthracite mine owners as he would have expected had the negotiations with the bituminous operators resulted in the signing of a scale.

Consistent Wisdom

No one exercising ordinary caution in business affairs leaves his property uninsured against fire, even for a single day, although at the very worst it could be only a partial loss—fire couldn't destroy the land.

A flaw in the title can cause the total loss of both building and land, and may happen as well as a fire. No prudent man assumes his own fire risk. Then why the title risk?

TITLE GUARANTEE AND TRUST CO

Capital & Surplus, - \$10,000,000
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The complainant, J. D. Campbell and F. I. Gowen of Philadelphia, W. S. Jenney of New York and other attorneys appeared for the defendant carriers.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has begun its inquiry under the Tillman-Gillespie resolution to ascertain the relations of certain railroad companies to the coal and oil industries. Special agents of the commission are gathering information in the fields, while the commission is in communication with persons supposed to have knowledge of the facts.

SEEK IMMUNITY FROM STRIKES.

Business Men in Anthracite Region Plan a Protective Organization.

TAMMARA, Pa., March 29.—An organization in some respects similar to the Citizens' Alliance, which was organized in the strike of 1902 to preserve order in the anthracite region, is being projected by leading business men.

The main object of the organization will be to take steps to preserve the business interests of the region by giving it immunity so far as possible from the effects of the constantly recurring strike agitation.

Since 1900, it is contended, the fear of a strike has been a wet blanket on the industrial progress of the region. But little work has been done in the matter of municipal improvement or industrial advancement. Manufacturing concerns are chary of locating in the anthracite region, for they know not at what time a strike will deprive them of fuel.

The fact that the population of the anthracite region is increasing should make it a good field for real estate investment but men with capital will not erect houses and lease them until they have no assurance that they will be able to collect their rents regularly.

In the past three years hundreds of business men have disposed of their holdings in the anthracite region towns and left for new fields.

CHICAGO MAY HAVE TO WALK.

Transportation Companies Have Only Six Weeks' Supply of Coal on Hand.

CHICAGO, March 29.—Transportation companies in Chicago are threatened with coal shortage in event of a protracted strike of miners. Six weeks' supply in storage is the greatest quantity any of the street or elevated railway companies has. The peril of the Union Traction Company, it is said, is acute because of limited storage capacities at its power plants.

The Northwestern Elevated Company, it was said at the office of General Manager Noel, has four weeks' supply for its power plant at Southport and Fullerton avenues, and two weeks' further supply on the way from the mines. The Chicago and Oak Park elevated line gets its power from the Chicago Edison Company by contract and its officers are not worrying. The Metropolitan and South Side elevated companies were said to have about five weeks' supply each on hand.

D. & H. PLANS SHUTDOWN.

Preparations Being Made to Protect the Mine After To-morrow.

SCRANTON, Pa., March 29.—It is understood that the Delaware and Hudson Company will shut down all its collieries on Saturday unless an agreement satisfactory to the operators is reached.

Six camps are under construction and a large number of cooking stoves are being placed in box cars to be used for kitchens at the mines in order to have property protected.

YOUNG WIDOW BOUND TO DIE.

DOCTOR UP TO 3 A. M. YESTERDAY PERSUADING HER NOT TO.

Last Night She Shot Herself After a Long Telephone Talk With Some Man—She Is Mrs. May Kay of New Orleans—A Love Letter From Him in Her Room.

Mrs. May Kay, a very good looking young woman, who had plenty of fine clothes and jewelry and appeared to be well supplied with money, shot herself early last night at the Hotel Alabama, 13 East Eleventh street, where she had been living since a week ago to-day. The wound is in the stomach and she is dying at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Mrs. Kay had been the source of a good deal of uneasiness to the hotel management. She was in a highly nervous state and had announced on several occasions that she was going to commit suicide.

P. E. Bush of 45 Charlton street, who has been treating her for some time, remained in her apartments until 3 o'clock yesterday morning, arguing with her about the foolishness of her taking her life. She promised the physician that she wouldn't kill herself, or at least not at once. The hotel manager had also talked with the young woman concerning her intentions and had tried to persuade her to take a more cheerful view of life.

According to her story, she came to this city from New Orleans about the first of the year and had been a widow for nearly three years. She told of having some trouble over property, and said that this trouble was responsible for her trip to this city. She spoke of having given a power of attorney to some one and said that her difficulties were the result.

Early last night Gregor Kriebbaum, the clerk at the hotel, received a telephone call from suite 42, which was Mrs. Kay's. The young woman said over the telephone to come quickly to my room. Kriebbaum hurried up and found Mrs. Kay fully dressed and lying on the bed. As he came in she turned to him and said calmly: "I've shot myself."

The clerk summoned Dr. Travell of 27 East Eleventh street, notified the police and called an ambulance. To Dr. Travell the young woman said: "I want to die, and I am sorry to bother you. I don't wish you to go to any trouble. Just leave me alone. I will be glad when it is all over."

Dr. Travell began searching about the room, and Mrs. Kay noticed this. She asked him what he was looking for and he replied that he was looking for the revolver.

"You'll find that over there in the corner. I have it behind a picture," said Mrs. Kay. A few minutes later she was where she said it was.

She had attempted to shoot herself in the heart but had missed and taken a downward course. At the hospital at a late hour the doctors were undecided as to the advisability of operating.

Just before shooting herself, Mrs. Kay had held a long conversation over the telephone with a man.

Detectives Baritz and Malone made an examination of the young woman's apartments. One of the things they found was a letter written on the stationery of the New St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans.

The envelope that had enclosed the letter was missing and the letter wasn't dated. It read:

MY DARLING DEAR AM I leaving, but against my wishes. I can love you, please wait until my return. I simply cannot give you up. Yours sincerely, B. L.

The "sincerely" in the letter was underlined. The letter appeared to have been received some time ago and had been crumpled up.

An acquaintance of Mrs. Kay says she told him that she came to this city three months ago to settle her affairs. Her husband, who, she said, had been a broker in New Orleans, left her considerable property in this city and in Cincinnati.

She said she had lost her confidence in a young man who was a schoolmate in New Orleans and gave him a power of attorney and that not long ago her affairs were in a state of confusion and she had \$150,000 coming to her as a result of the settlement. But she had not got it and had worried about it for some time.

She might have had reason to suspect that there had been a love affair between Mrs. Kay and the young man.

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SOUTH AFRICA IS AROUSED.

COLONIAL SECRETARY STOPS EXECUTION OF NEGRO MURDERERS.

Natal Cabinet Resigns in Protest—Home Government's Action Denounced—Hint That There Was Fear of Native Tricking if Sentences Were Carried Out.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 29.—The Government of Natal resigned to-day on account of a difference with the Colonial Office over the sentencing of twelve natives arrested during a recent outbreak. The twelve had been charged with murder and sentenced to be hanged. The Colonial Cabinet affirmed the sentence, and the Prime Minister, C. J. Smythe, refused to postpone the execution after to-morrow.

Sir Henry Edward McCallum, the Governor of the colony, thereupon intervened and granted the condemned men a reprieve by letters patent. The Earl of Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, cabled an endorsement of the Governor's action, and on receipt of his message the Cabinet resigned.

The action of the Colonial Secretary has raised a storm of protest in the Conservative papers, clubs and political circles. It is denounced as a grave blunder, and a violation of constitutional principle, which is fraught with the gravest possibilities of disaster.

From the principal centres of South Africa come despatches recording the indignation, not of Natal alone, but of all the colonies, the feeling being comparable to that which would prevail among the whites of the Southern States if the Government at Washington should forbid the execution of negro murderers convicted after due trial.

The circumstances leading to the trouble were as follows: A party of police were engaged on February 8 in collecting the native poll tax at Byrne, a town in the Richmond district of Natal. They were ambushed by forty natives and a sub-inspector and a trooper were killed. Twenty-two of them were sentenced to be shot by the court, which was composed of militia officers. The prisoners were legally represented by the Governor in council. The opponents of the executions contended that the offence was committed before martial law was proclaimed and that, therefore, the prisoners ought to have been tried by a civil court.

The Marquis of Lansdowne questioned the Earl of Elgin on the subject in the House of Lords. The Colonial Secretary after stating the facts disavowed want of sympathy with the colony, but said that the execution of twelve men sentenced by a court-martial was a serious matter, and in view of a possible demand for the services of British troops in the colony he considered it his duty to ask for further information.

The matter was brought up in the House of Commons by questions put to Under Colonial Secretary Churchill. He was careful to repudiate an unwarrantable presumption implied that he was the author of the order suspending the executions. Such an order, he said, could only be issued by the head of the Colonial Office. He somewhat elaborated the Colonial Secretary's reply in the House of Lords, referring more particularly to the possibility of a native rising in Natal, but he could not give further information.

He added that he hoped to know more of the matter to-morrow. Several members of the opposition hotly attacked the Government's action. The House broke up in some disorder.

It is noteworthy that the present agitation affords each side of the controversy opportunity to accuse the other of invoking the spirit which lost Great Britain her American colonies. Neither is slow to avail itself of the chance. The anti-imperialists whose attacks for the moment are focused on Viscount Milner, accuse him of estranging the Dutch colonials and the Boers by methods akin to those made famous in American history, while the imperialists similarly denounce the Government's unwarrantable and vexatious interference with colonial rights.

MOHICAN AGAIN ASHORE.

British Steamer, Floated on March 10, Strikes Second Time on Cuban Coast.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

HAVANA, March 29.—The British steamer Mohican from Puerto Padre for New York is ashore on Conifera Key, between Nuevitas and Cabaiguana. Her agents have hope of refloating her.

The Mohican left here last on February 24 for Puerto Padre and on the way back went ashore on March 13 in Nipe Bay with her forehold full of water. Her cargo was lightened and she floated on March 16.

VON BELOW NOT TO RESIGN.

German Chancellor Takes Stand in Favor of a Colonial Department.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, March 29.—In the Reichstag to-day Chancellor von Bulow supported the proposal for the creation of a colonial department of government on the ground that Germany had become a colonial power. He characterized the reports that he intended to resign the Chancellorship as absurd.

House of Lords Escalates for Milner.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 29.—The House of Lords to-day offset the recent attack in the House of Commons on Viscount Milner for allowing the flogging of Chinese coolies while he was High Commissioner in South Africa by adopting by a vote of 170 to 35 a motion made by Viscount Halifax eulogizing his services as High Commissioner.

Grounded Steamer Blocks Suez Canal.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 29.—The British steamship Mandalay is aground in the Suez Canal and traffic is suspended in consequence.

ONE INSURANCE BILL PASSED.

ASSEMBLY CONCURS IN MEASURE REMOVING TRUSTEES.

Now Goes to the Governor for His Approval—Not a Dissenting Vote Cast—The Assembly—The Other Bill Agreed Upon and Will Be Reported To-day.

ALBANY, March 29.—The Armstrong committee bill legislating out of office the trustees of mutual life insurance companies passed the Assembly to-day and now goes back to the Senate, from where it will be sent to the Governor for his action.

When the bill was being considered Assemblyman La Fetra said he had purposed to offer an amendment that would exclude any of the present trustees from being eligible to election but if the committee was satisfied with the bill he would defer to its judgment. Not a vote in opposition was recorded.

Assemblymen Tompkins and Shanahan caught Assemblyman Rogers, who had charge of the bill in the lower house, regarding the effect of the bill. Mr. Rogers said that the bill would legislate out of office the trustees of the New York Life, the Mutual Life, the Security Mutual of Binghamton and the Mutual Reserve Life.

In answer to a question concerning the Equitable Mr. Rogers said that that company was taken care of in another bill.

The bill passed to-day, although it will, if signed by the Governor, legislate out of office all the trustees of the mutual companies, will not prevent them from being returned to office if the policyholders desire them. The bill invalidates all existing proxies. The managements of the companies may collect proxies, but the period of the campaign for them, a calendar year, is restricted to the November 15 election. Any proxy obtained prior to September 15 is invalid. It is the scheme of the Armstrong committee bills to require the managements of the companies not only to file with the State Superintendent of Insurance lists of the policyholders, but also to make public their candidates four months prior to the election.

Senator Armstrong reached Albany at 4 o'clock this afternoon, where, for over a week, the work of finally revising the insurance bills has been going on. With Senator Armstrong were the investigating committee's counsel, Charles E. Hughes, and James McKean; the committee's secretary, Miles Dawson, and its statistician, Marvin Souder.

Mr. Hughes had the revised insurance bills with him. Shortly before 5 o'clock the members of the Armstrong committee and of the standing committee on insurance in the Senate and the Assembly, with the Armstrong committee's counsel and Mr. Miles Dawson, met in the Finance Committee's room in executive session for the purpose of having the full committee act on the bills, which are reported out again by the committee in each house to-morrow. At 6 o'clock a dinner recess was taken until 8, when Senator Armstrong announced that the committee expected to complete its work to-night, even if it took until after midnight.

Late to-night the conference over the bills was continued, and Senator Armstrong announced the changes that had been made in the bills. The bills relative to lobbying, political contributions, perjury, false entries in books, relates and the acquiring of real property are permitted to stand, with the exception of a few formal amendments.

Eight all of the eight bills at first introduced by the committee, with the exception of the general amendments to the insurance law, are reported out again by the committee with nothing but formal changes. The bills amending the insurance law generally and providing for standards for forms of policies and pertaining to cooperative and assessment insurance companies have been consolidated into one bill and the changes are largely for the better. The bill amending the law so that the law shall be made applicable only to domestic insurance corporations relative to expenses for the procurement of new business within the limits of expense required of a domestic corporation shall not be permitted to do business within this State.

Changes have been made in section 87 regarding the contingency reserve fund. The scale for that is reduced down to 1 per cent. for a company having \$75,000 in assets. The scale originally had been graduated down to 2 per cent. Now every company having \$25,000 in assets must have a contingency reserve of 5 per cent. The Superintendent of Insurance is empowered to carry over any contingency reserve in order to be able to meet any unexpected depreciation in the value of the securities held.

The section relative to loadings on premium is amended.

The much mooted section 89, in regard to the agents' commissions, has been amended materially, so that the agents' commissions shall be considerably larger than at first provided. The section has been modified so that it now provides that a company's first year's business for expenses must exceed the commissions to agents; salaries paid excessively for the procurement of new business, medical and inspectors' fees and advances to agents shall not exceed the loadings and margins originally provided.

This, Senator Armstrong explains, will allow about 50 per cent. to be expended on the first year's premium for new business on an ordinary life policy. Nine renewals at 7 1/2 per cent. are to be allowed, with 2 1/2 per cent. additional the tenth year and thereafter. The companies must make their renewal payments within three years, not more than two-fifths of the commutation to be paid in any one year.

In regard to the investments of the companies the committee has modified the section by permitting the companies holding collateral trust bonds to hold the bonds, but the companies now hold between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000 of these bonds. However, the provision is retained that the standard form of policy shall go into operation on January 1 next, but prior to October 1 the State Superintendent of Insurance may modify that form after hearings accorded to representatives of the insurance companies, though such modifications are not to conflict with any provision of the Amended Insurance Law.

Senator Armstrong explained that this would enable the Superintendent of Insurance to correct anything in this regard that the committee may have overlooked.

It was stated that the bills would be reported favorably in each house but the indications are that they will pass the Legislature and reach Gov. Higgins before the middle of April.

HITS GILLETTE AND GRANNIS.

Trusteers Report Pitches Into Mutual's Ex-Vice-Presidents.

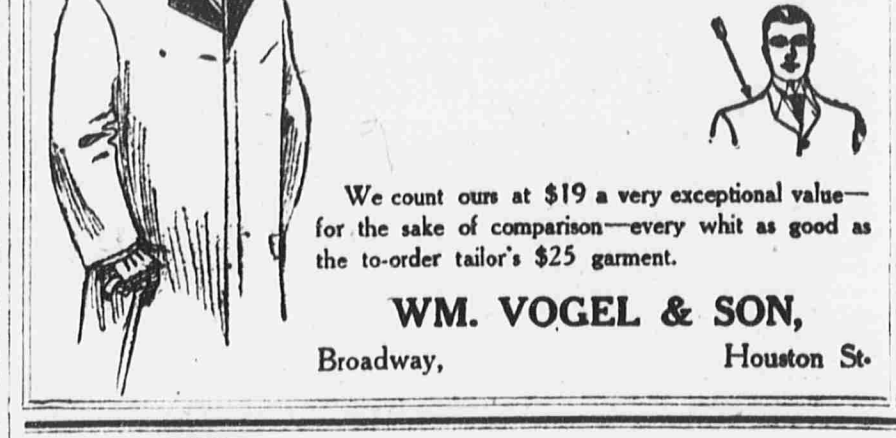
It was said yesterday on good authority that the Trusteers committee's report, submitted to the Mutual Life's board of trustees on Wednesday, censures Dr. Walter R. Gillette and Robert A. Grannis, the retiring vice-presidents, for having approved vouchers under the McCurdy administration for extraordinary legal expenses.

It was brought out in the Armstrong committee proceedings that both of these officers had "initialed" vouchers for expenditures without knowing definitely how the money was to be used. It is thought that the findings of the Trusteers committee may have had something to do with the announced decision of the two officers to retire.

There is a chance that the Mutual Life might have Andrew Fields, the old legal agent, for an accounting. The Armstrong committee was never able to get any idea of the amount of money which Fields received from the company. The money

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We count ours at \$19 a very exceptional value—for the sake of comparison—every white as good as the to-order tailor's \$25 garment.

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CHICAGO BRANCH PHILADELPHIA BRANCH
1233 & 1255 Michigan Ave. 236 North Broad St. Morrison-Tyler Motor Co. 121 Massachusetts Ave.

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paid out for the supply department, of which he had charge, were notoriously excessive, but the Armstrong committee was unable to show that any of the money was used for purposes other than was stated in the books. Fields has not returned from exile yet, but it is thought that the Mutual Life authorities know pretty well where they can locate him.

It is the intention of the international policyholders' committee to begin active operations to reorganize the Mutual and New York Life as soon as the Armstrong committee bill, passed yesterday, is signed by the Governor. The reorganization of the committee, which will include several prominent men, will be announced in a short time.

The first step which the committee will take will be to prevent the present managements of the companies from using their agency forces to collect proxies. How the restoration of the money will be secured, but the matter will probably be taken into the courts.

Persons close to the New York Life affairs expect to hear within a few days that contributions made by the company to the Republican national campaign committee, amounting to \$150,000, have been repaid. The restoration of the money will, it is said, undoubtedly be made by the trustees in the company, who advised the late John A. McCall in the matter.

BRITISH POLICYHOLDERS SAFE.

Mutual Manager Who Resigned Tells of Action for Their Protection.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 29.—Mr. D. C. Haldeman, who resigned the other day as British manager for the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, said in an interview to-day:

"There is ample security for British policyholders. On no account must they think of surrendering their policies. A long conference was held yesterday by some leading policyholders, a member of the New York board of trustees and myself. The restoration of the money will, it is said, undoubtedly be made by the trustees in the company, who advised the late John A. McCall in the matter."

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